

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

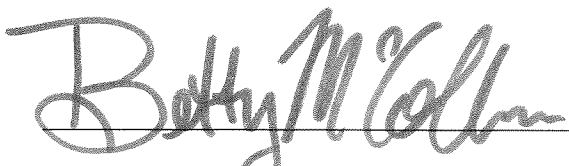

As you know, we believe the current Medicare payment system is deeply flawed and must be fixed to address geographic payment inequities and reward high quality, high value care. We thank you again for your leadership in working with the Quality Care Coalition to include Sections 1157-1160 in the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R. 3962) that reform the Medicare system to pay providers based on the quality of care they provide instead of the volume of services. We believe it is critical to address this issue in any health reform legislation enacted into law.


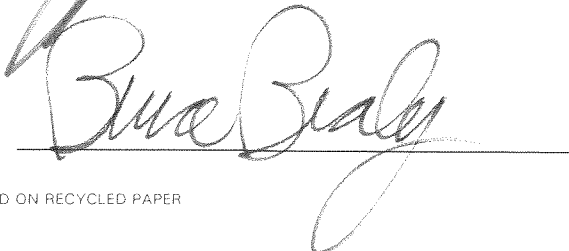
Although we applaud the Senate for its work to include provisions in its health care reform bill to promote high quality, high value care, we believe the House provisions are far stronger. The House provisions would reform the entire Medicare payment system, including both physician and hospital payments. The Senate language applies primarily to physician payments. The House quality and value provisions could be implemented starting in 2013 whereas the Senate provisions do not go into effect until 2015. The House provisions also allow for the transformative reform of the Medicare fee-for-service system we need to provide meaningful change to the current reimbursement system and achieve significant cost containment. The Senate provides a more modest value modifier and therefore less opportunity for major cost savings. In short, the House bill provides a better focus on promoting high quality, high value care and the critical reforms needed to the current Medicare payment systems.

We thank you again for your leadership and support to include provisions in the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* to promote high quality, high value care and address geographic payment disparities; and your commitment to fight for the provisions in conference. It will be difficult for us to support final health reform legislation that fails to significantly reform our Medicare reimbursement system and weakens efforts to address geographic disparities as passed by the U.S. House. We urge you to ensure that the House provisions are included in the final health care reform bill.

Thank you again for your attention to this request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure health care reform legislation is enacted.

Sincerely,

Paul Jayne

Er Pomeroy

John Smith

Kurt Schradley

Pete D'Amico

Earl Blum

NFB

Adler PH-02

Norm Decker

Enter Webb

Richard Kline

Rink Boucher

Steve Kagen m

Jim Quenter

Steve Tebock

Stephanie K. Gail

John

Leonard L. Bruck

W. J. W. H.

W. J. W. H.

Billy S. S.

Michael Michael

Carol Shea-Potter

Phil Hare

Ja McLeod

Marcy Kaptur

Keith Ellison

Lee

Tammy Baldwin

Cher Purr

Letter to Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer (December 11, 2009):

1. Representative Betty McCollum
2. Representative Jay Inslee
3. Representative Ron Kind
4. Representative Bruce Braley
5. Representative Bart Stupak
6. Representative Earl Pomeroy
7. Representative Adam Smith
8. Representative Kurt Schrader
9. Representative Peter DeFazio
10. Representative Earl Blumenauer
11. Representative Brian Baird
12. Representative Paul Hodes
13. Representative Norman D. Dicks
14. Representative Peter Welch
15. Representative Rick Larsen
16. Representative Rick Boucher
17. Representative Steve Kagen
18. Representative James Oberstar
19. Representative Dave Loebsack
20. Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin
21. Representative Jim Cooper
22. Representative Leonard Boswell
23. Representative Tim Walz
24. Representative David R. Obey
25. Representative Bobby Scott
26. Representative Mike Michaud
27. Representative Carol Shea-Porter
28. Representative Phil Hare
29. Representative Jim McDermott
30. Representative David Wu
31. Representative Marcy Kaptur
32. Representative Tammy Baldwin
33. Representative Chellie Pingree
34. Representative Keith Ellison